

Internet Access Policy

The Bedford Public Library provides computers with Internet access and wireless Internet access for the community. The Library affirms the rights and responsibility of parents to determine and monitor their children's use of library materials and resources.

The Internet is a powerful tool for finding information, but other library resources may be more appropriate for locating some information in a timely manner. The Internet user must evaluate the validity, accuracy, and appropriateness of the information found on the Internet. The reference librarians can assist patrons who would like help evaluating Internet resources.

Computers available to the public which can be used to access the Internet must be shared by library users of all ages, background and sensibilities. Since staff cannot consistently and effectively monitor the public's use of the Internet, customers are asked to be sensitive of others' values and beliefs when accessing potentially controversial information and images. Parents of minor children must assume responsibility for their children's use of or exposure to the Internet through the library's connection. The library does not attempt to restrict Internet sites. While constitutionally protected speech and information is available for access by all library patrons, the library must be mindful and respectful of the rights of other patrons (particularly children) not to be inadvertently exposed to material and images that they (or their parents) may find unsuitable. In this regard, the following guidelines will be in effect regarding Internet access:

Library computer workstations may not be used to view or transmit sexually explicit material or any other material that is not constitutionally protected or to conduct other illegal activity.

Any library staff member who observes a person viewing such material will direct that person to refrain from viewing such material. Any person who refuses to comply with these directions will be asked to leave the library premises. After the initial warning, if a patron continues to view or send inappropriate images, the patron's computer access privileges may be suspended or revoked.

Users are cautioned that, because security in an electronic environment such as the Internet cannot be guaranteed, all transactions, files and communications are vulnerable to unauthorized access and use and, therefore, should be considered public.

Internet Usage Guidelines

1. Patrons with a valid library card from the Bedford Public Library or a GMILCS library may use the computers.
2. A limited number of guest passes are available at the Reference Desk for patrons who do not have a library card.
3. Youths under 14 years of age must have permission from their parent or guardian, in the form of a signed Internet Permission form, to use the Internet. Youths who

- do not have signed permission forms may use the computers in the Children's Room.
4. Patrons may use the Internet for 60 minutes per day. This time may be extended at the librarian's discretion.
 5. Patrons may print pages to the printer at cost of .10 per page. Users may pay at the Reference or Circulation desk. Printing in color is available with the assistance of the Reference librarian. Color printing cost .50 per page.
 6. Assistance will be available as staff time and experience permits.
 7. Any files saved to the hard drive are **temporary** and may be lost when the patron logs out. During the day, the computers are rebooted and all files deleted.
 8. Files may be saved to CDs or thumb drives. CDs are available for \$1.00 at the Reference Desk.

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Board of Trustees
Bedford Public Library